



**NEWS RELEASE**

Fresno County Public Library Communication  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

April 21, 2026

## **Fresno County Public Library Receives \$40,000 Carnegie Grant to Honor Historic Library Legacy**

**Fresno County, CA** – The Fresno County Public Library has been awarded \$40,000 from Carnegie Corporation of New York as part of a nationwide initiative recognizing libraries established through funding from Andrew Carnegie.

The funding commemorates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence and honors the lasting impact of Carnegie libraries across the United States.

Fresno County Public Library received \$10,000 for each of its four Carnegie library sites: Clovis, Sanger, Selma, and Fresno. While not all the original buildings remain, each location represents an important chapter in the development of library service throughout Fresno County.

The original Fresno Carnegie Library, completed in 1904 with a \$30,000 grant, provided the community's first permanent public library building and helped lay the foundation for the County's library system.

In Selma and Sanger, Carnegie-funded libraries served their communities for decades before being outgrown and eventually replaced, reflecting the continued growth and demand for library services in those areas.

The Clovis Carnegie Library, built in 1914, remains the only surviving Carnegie library building in Fresno County and continues to serve the community today as the Clovis Chamber of Commerce and Community Hall.

Although several of the original buildings no longer exist, their legacy continues. At the site of the original Fresno Carnegie Library, that history was recently brought back into focus when bricks from the building were uncovered during Carnegie Parking Garage construction. One of those bricks is now preserved at the Library's Heritage Center.

"This recognition highlights the foundation that Carnegie libraries helped create in communities throughout Fresno County," said Sally Gomez, Director and County Librarian of the Fresno County Public Library. "Even where the original buildings are no longer standing, their purpose continues through the services and access we provide today."

The Library is currently reviewing how the funding will be used and is considering opportunities to highlight and promote the history of each of these communities, connecting residents with the stories of their local libraries and the role they have played over time.

Between 1886 and 1917, Carnegie funded the construction of more than 1,600 public libraries in the United States, based on his belief that libraries are essential to an informed and engaged community.

**About Fresno County Public Library**

For over 100 years, the Fresno County Public Library has been a place to connect, grow, and be inspired. With 33 branches countywide, the Library offers free access to books, technology, educational programs, and community resources for all ages. To learn more, visit [fresnolibrary.org](http://fresnolibrary.org).

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